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Statement submitted by Modern Advocacy, Humanitarian, Social and Rehabilitation Association, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Transforming Governments' Macroeconomic Greed into Achievable Needs for its Most Unfortunate Populations

In many developing nations with high gross national income (GNI), there is significant class distinction between the poor and the rich. The wealth gap often leads to societal discrimination and marginalization that denies the less privileged many social benefits. Within urban settings in class divided societies, data policies fail to distinguish or take consideration of different livelihoods and living standards of the habitants. As such, the burden of paying government dues or taxes weighs most on poor individuals who are striving to make a living among wealthy town dwellers. Considering the need for high-quality, timely, reliable and relevant demographic data in support of the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which population-related issues underpin many of the goals and targets and which the current High Level Segment session wants to ensure that no one is left behind, these issues are at stake:

- Collective government levies on area dwellers is a significant factor that denies equality or equal progress for all classes of people in each area;
- Collective or uncontrolled housing and health billing modalities within urban areas denies the poor of their rights to equal and accessible quality services;
- Government focus on high economic potential areas undermines the value and need for sustainable development factors that aspire for the well-being of all.

In addressing these worries, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) proposes that ideal demographic data and estimates should be disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts. In addition, the proposal of the Chair of the Forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development towards strengthening the demographic evidence base for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicates thus:

1. Encourage Government efforts to adopt open data policies allowing the dissemination of public use, georeferenced and anonymized microdata from censuses, household surveys, civil registration, population registers, health information systems and other relevant administrative records with respect for confidentiality;
2. Population and housing censuses for a country as a whole and for each administrative area therein are one of the primary sources of data needed for formulating, implementing and monitoring the effectiveness of policies and programmes aimed at, inter alia, inclusive sustainable development, poverty eradication and gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Reflecting developing nations wherein a true will among the poor to serve corrupt public leaders is lacking, a more inclusive approach is necessary for implementing effective national demographic data policies. These include:

- Prior consideration measures on State levies for individuals in class distinguishing societies that reflect factors for poverty eradication and vulnerable women and girls' well-being;

– Populations' participation and encouragement towards the assessment and accountability of their collected and published demographic data;

Since the goals require a more inclusive human development and well-being approach, leaving no one behind will henceforth require that national demographic data processes be particularly focused on the situational worries of the vulnerable area dwellers.